

**ESSB 6002** - H AMD TO H AMD (H-4473.1/14) **847**

By Representative Taylor

**FAILED 03/04/2014**

1 On page 248, after line 33, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 717. A new section is added to 2013 2nd sp.s.  
3 c 4 (uncodified) to read as follows:

4 **FOR THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS**

5 (1) (a)(i) The legislative task force on the transfer of public  
6 lands is established, with members as provided as follows:

7 (A) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two  
8 members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
9 representatives; and

10 (B) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from  
11 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

12 (ii) The task force shall choose its chair or cochairs from among  
13 its membership.

14 (b) The task force shall, with guidance from other interested  
15 parties and stakeholders, prepare proposed legislation:

16 (i) Creating a public lands commission assigned with:

17 (A) Administering the transfer of title of public lands from the  
18 United States to the state of Washington; and

19 (B) Addressing the management of public lands and the management  
20 of multiple uses of public lands, including managing open space,  
21 access to public lands, local planning, and the sustainable yield of  
22 natural resources on public lands;

23 (ii) Establishing actions that must be taken to secure, preserve,  
24 and protect the state's rights and benefits related to the United  
25 States' duty to have extinguished title to public lands;

26 (iii) Making any necessary modifications to the definition of  
27 "public lands";

1 (iv) Making a determination of, or creating a process for  
2 determining, interests, rights, or uses related to:

3 (A) Easements;

4 (B) Geothermal resources;

5 (C) Grazing;

6 (D) Mining;

7 (E) Natural gas;

8 (F) Oil and other fossil fuels;

9 (G) Recreation;

10 (H) Rights of entry;

11 (I) Special uses;

12 (J) Timber;

13 (K) Water; or

14 (L) Other natural resources or other resources; and

15 (v) Determining what constitutes "expenses incident to the sale of  
16 public lands".

17 (c) The legislative task force on the transfer of public lands  
18 shall also study and determine whether to prepare proposed legislation  
19 related to:

20 (i) An administrative process for:

21 (A) The United States to extinguish title to public lands;

22 (B) The state to receive title to public lands from the United  
23 States; or

24 (C) The state to transfer title to any public lands the state  
25 receives;

26 (ii) Establishing a prioritized list of management actions for the  
27 state and the political subdivisions of the state to perform on public  
28 lands:

29 (A) Before and after the United States extinguishes title to  
30 public lands; and

31 (B) To preserve and promote the state's interest in:

32 (I) Protecting public health and safety;

33 (II) Preventing catastrophic wild fire and forest insect  
34 infestation;

1 (III) Preserving watersheds;

2 (IV) Preserving and enhancing energy and the production of  
3 minerals;

4 (V) Preserving and improving range conditions; and

5 (VI) Increasing plant diversity and reducing invasive weeds on  
6 range and woodland portions of the public lands;

7 (VII) Establishing procedures and requirements for subjecting  
8 public lands to property taxation;

9 (VII) Establishing other requirements related to national forests,  
10 national recreation areas, or other public lands administered by the  
11 United States; and

12 (VIII) Addressing the indemnification of a political subdivision  
13 of the state.

14 (d) The legislative task force on the transfer of public lands  
15 also may study any other issue related to public lands as determined  
16 by the commissioner and the attorney general.

17 (e) The legislative task force on the transfer of public lands  
18 shall:

19 (i) Make preliminary reports on the study and preparation of  
20 proposed legislation to the legislature:

21 (A) By June 30, 2014; and

22 (B) By October 31, 2014; and

23 (ii) Deliver a final report containing findings, recommendations,  
24 and proposed legislation to the legislature by January 2, 2015.

25 (f) Staff support for the legislative task force on the transfer  
26 of public lands must be provided by the house of representatives  
27 office of program research and senate committee services.

28 (g) Legislative members of the legislative task force on the  
29 transfer of public lands must be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
30 accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

31 (h) The expenses of the legislative task force on the transfer of  
32 public lands must be paid jointly by the senate and the house of  
33 representatives. Task force expenditures are subject to approval by  
34 the senate facilities and operations committee and the house of

1 representatives executive rules committee, or their successor  
2 committees."

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EFFECT: Establishes the Legislative Task Force on the Transfer of Public Lands with membership from the House and Senate and support from legislative staff. Requires the Task Force to prepare legislation creating a public lands commission to administer the transfer of public lands from the United States to Washington and address the management of public lands.

FISCAL IMPACT: No net change to appropriated levels.

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